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SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [IR](#) [IS](#) [IZ](#) [JO](#) [KWBG](#) [SY](#)

SUBJECT: SAAD KHAYR ON IRAQ, IRAN, PEACE PROCESS, SYRIA

Classified By: CDA David Hale for reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (C) IRAQ: Former GID Director (and head of Jordan's embryonic National Security Council) Saad Khayr told the Charge September 7 that King Abdallah's visit to Turkey earlier this week focused on Iraq and Israeli-Palestinian issues. On Iraq, Khayr said the Turks shared Jordan's interest in seeing greater Sunni engagement in the political process, and were hopeful the draft constitution could be further improved later on to meet Sunni concerns. Khayr highlighted Iyad Allawi as particularly able to bring the Sunnis into the process, though the GoJ's discussion with the Turks did not specifically address Allawi as a future candidate for PM (likely what Khayr or others in the GoJ have in mind). Fearing that its planned Sunni-Shia reconciliation conference could get caught up in the debate over the constitution, the GoJ has decided to postpone the event, perhaps until the pre-referendum timeframe.

2. (S) IRAN: Khayr said he will travel Sept. 7 to Tehran for a short visit, his first in two years, to assess new Iranian President Ahmedinajad. Khayr noted the recent appointment of the new Iranian Interior Minister -- reportedly a senior aide to the Intelligence Minister -- as yet another indication of the hardline consolidation within Iran. Khayr predicted the Iranian hardliners would try to project a desire for good relations with the GoJ notwithstanding their continued attempts to undermine Jordan's interests behind the scenes. Charge urged Khayr to encourage positive Iranian behavior on Iraq, nuclear technology, the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, and Syria/Lebanon, and noted that while the Iranians may not have had a direct hand in the Aqaba attack, the Katyusha itself undoubtedly came from one of their terrorist appendages.

3. (C) ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Closer to home, Khayr indicated he had met with Israeli PM Sharon in Jerusalem recently. After hearing from Sharon of his precarious political situation within the Likud and resulting inability to offer any confidence-building measures for the Palestinians (e.g., releases of Palestinian prisoners, movement on the airport issue) at this time, the Jordanians decided to postpone the King's travel to Jerusalem and Ramallah which the King had earlier told the Charge he wanted to do prior to his Washington visit and which has surfaced in regional media. Rather than go to Ramallah only, the King decided to postpone both stops. Sharon told Saad there would be unprecedented Israeli retaliation to any Palestinian attacks, and laid out a tough message on Palestinian security requirements -- dissolve and disarm the terrorist groups and implement security reforms now. Saad agreed these were necessary steps, but personally doubted Abu Mazen could deliver.

4. (C) SYRIA: Khayr agreed entirely on the need for continued isolation and pressure. The Charge asked for his help in spreading the word to other Arab states, especially in treating the Syrian delegation to the UNGA at arms' length.
HALE